

## **Performance of Theatre for Dialogue**

Spring 2011

SW360K: 62585

TD 357: 26545

**Class:** Wednesdays 2-4:50 PM, SSB Conference Room

**Lab:** Mondays 2-4:50pm, Utopia Theatre, School of Social Work

### **Voices Against Violence**

**Instructor:** Lynn Hoare

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Office location:** Counseling and Mental Health Center, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, SSB

**Office phone:** 475-6989 (direct line); 471-3515 (front desk)

**Email:** [lynnhoare@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:lynnhoare@mail.utexas.edu)

**Teaching Assistant:** Dept. of Theatre and Dance: **Ben Snyder**

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Email:** [bensnyder4508@gmail.com](mailto:bensnyder4508@gmail.com)

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on using Theatre for Dialogue methods to raise awareness and educate on issues of interpersonal violence including relationship violence, sexual violence and stalking. Students trained in interactive and applied theatre methods perform scenarios to facilitate investigation of and conversations around power and control, supporting survivors, and identifying warning signs or red flags of unhealthy relationships. Student performers and facilitators offer audience participants the opportunity to examine perceptions and assumptions and to actively rehearse change.

### **Course Objectives**

- To practice theatre techniques, improvisational methods and facilitation skills and use them as tools to start dialogue and raise awareness on the UT campus.
- To create and perform scenarios about interpersonal violence for on and off-campus audiences based on the materials and training covered in SW 360K/TD357, Fall 2009.
- To contribute to realistic scenarios that effectively represent issues in a way familiar to college populations and to offer audience members an opportunity to create change through rehearsing reality.
- To create characters that audience members can identify with and that reflect various behaviors related to interpersonal violence issues.
- To be informed and responsibly share knowledge of interpersonal violence dynamics, resources, support and programs on and off-campus.
- To act as a leader in confronting and challenging interpersonal violence in campus communities.
- To explore strategies for transforming a violent culture through activist work using performance.

## **Teaching Methods**

This course uses a variety of teachings methods, including videos, discussion, theatre games and movement based activities. Students are encouraged to participate, and to take care of themselves at all times, assessing personal limits and comfort levels. This class requires participation in a Lab rehearsal time on Mondays from 2-5pm.

## **Class Organization and Expectations**

This class will be conducted as a seminar and will consist of exercises, discussion, rehearsal and performance. Students are responsible for active participation in the class, being prepared to integrate readings and completing all assignments on time.

## **Conduct:**

Students are expected to adhere to student conduct guidelines at all times. Students must understand that they are selected into this class as leaders and ambassadors for the Voices Against Violence Program. They are held to a higher standard of personal conduct both in and outside class. Please be mindful that your interactions outside class also reflect the higher standard that is associated with being a VAV leader. This includes the kind of information that you share on facebook/myspace and your interaction with other students in informal settings.

Students are expected to NOT be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they are in class or at any event or context where they are representing VAV.

Students are encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around the issues presented in class. We encourage students to be aware of the power and control dynamics in our day to day interactions and be mindful of others in class. Any physical, verbal or psychological intimidation toward anyone in class will not be tolerated.

Students are also expected to maintain professional conduct with each other, even if they may have personal relationships or friendships with each other outside the class.

## **Confidentiality:**

Given the nature of our class, we require an agreement of confidentiality from everyone. Any personal information brought up in class should stay in class unless the person who revealed the information brings it up outside class.

**The class location in the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) makes it very important to maintain confidentiality of any other students you may meet or any other confidential information you might encounter on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the SSB. Students in the class may not approach any other student (other than their classmates) in the waiting area of CMHC even if they know them, unless they are approached first by the other student. Even then, please keep your conversation to a minimum and do not discuss the meeting with anyone else. Students are also prohibited from going into any other area at CMHC besides the waiting area, the conference room and the restroom.**

### **Attendance:**

If you must miss a class meeting, please notify Lynn Hoare in advance. A great deal of emphasis is placed on being in class due to the participatory nature of the course. You will be allowed one (1) unexcused class absence during the semester without penalty. More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in the deduction of 2 points per absence from your final grade. Out of class performance, presentation, tabling, volunteering and retreat dates and times will be discussed with the class and sign-ups will be circulated. Once you have signed up for an event, attendance is mandatory and will result in the deduction of points from your final grade unless you notify Lynn Hoare in advance.

If you miss rehearsal lab or class on the week of your scheduled performance, you will be replaced, without a guarantee to add a performance in your schedule later.

Out of class performance/presentation/tabling dates and times will be discussed in advance with the class – but once you have signed up for them, attendance is mandatory (unless YOU find someone at least 1 week in advance to substitute for your role) and will result in the deduction of points from your final grade. *No “make up” points will be offered for unexcused absences after you have signed up for events/performances.*

### **Self-care/Support:**

Given the topics of discussion in class, I recognize that there may be issues that may come up for some students in the class. Through the course of the year, you also may find that your perspectives and opinions on relationship violence may change. This may make it easier or more difficult to confide in or talk with people close to you. I encourage you to please take care of yourself and seek outside help/support if you need to talk to someone about your feelings. I encourage you to speak to a counselor at the Counseling and Mental Health Center (call 471-3515 to make an appointment) or call Telephone Counseling (471-2255). You are always welcome to talk to me as well.

### **Other:**

From time to time, portions of the class or presentations/performance may be photographed, and/or video/audio recorded. Students should feel free to let the instructor know if they are not comfortable with that.

Students should also feel free to bring information about events related to class issues to class, and are welcome to notify the class through email about such events. The class email list is not to be used for issues that are not related to the class.

Please note that the University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

## **Class Requirements: Assessment and Evaluation of Outcomes (200 pts.)**

**5 performances:** 4 required public performances, plus one ensemble performance for friends and family audience at end of year. **20 points possible per performance.**

- For each performance you will receive a grade of  $\sqrt{\quad}$ ,  $\sqrt{+}$ ,  $\sqrt{-}$
- $\sqrt{=}$  18: this is a good grade and means you showed up on time for rehearsal and performance and did a good job. You still have room for growth, but this was a strong performance.
- $\sqrt{+}$  = 20: This means you really worked hard on this performance, integrated feedback from others, showed growth in your physical and character work, worked to actively create a realistic character with committed choices, worked as part of the ensemble and did your personal best;
- $\sqrt{-}$  = 16-17: This means you were late to a rehearsal OR performance, or didn't contribute fully to the ensemble, or did not do your best work on this performance, physically, verbally or in your character.
- If you miss a performance you will receive a 0 for that performance.
- The Ensemble performance will be a final performance that all class members will participate in. Date will be decided in class, but will be in the last 3 weeks of the semester, from 7-9 on a M, T, W or TH evening.

**100 points total**

**Journal/Forum Posts: 8 posts at 5 points each**

- 4 performance reflection posts (for each performance except Final Ensemble performance due within a week following the performance. These posts will be through the "Journal" option in BlackBoard.
- 4 posts to the Forum topic/question. These posts will be in response to the question or topic listed and you will have one week to add your responses to the discussion. They will be available through the "discussion board" option in Blackboard. **They are due Feb. 9, 16, 23 and March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**40 points total**

**Participation:**

- take on active support role in class when rehearsal scenarios: (10 points)  
recorder, director, red flags, character development, facilitator support
- general LAB and Class attendance and participation (10 points)

**20 points total**

**VAV events: 4 events at 5 points each**

Record on blackboard with date, time and one sentence description

If you are not available for mandatory events, you must discuss alternate plans with Lynn in advance; otherwise it will impact grade.

See notes about **mandatory and suggested VAV events on p. 7**

**20 points total**

**Reflections: Mid semester and end of semester reflection (questions provided)**

- 10 points each

**20 points total**

**Performance Participation:**

Each student will be required to sign-up for specific performances and perform 4 times outside class, plus a closing ensemble performance. Each performance will be worth up to 20 points, and will be graded as  $\checkmark$ ,  $\checkmark+$  and  $\checkmark-$ . If you miss a performance that you have signed up for you will receive 0 points for that performance. An initial list of performances and a sign-up sheet will be provided within the first 2 two weeks of class. Additional performance events and dates may be provided throughout the semester. **Once the performance calendar is final, attendance is mandatory for the performances you are scheduled for and will result in the deduction of points from your final grade if you do not show up.** Given the nature of the class, it is not possible to provide “make-up” sessions for missed performances due to illness – so students are encouraged to sign up for all performances for which you are available. Additional performances can count toward VAV points.

Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the performances. Effort will be made to limit rehearsal time to our class time on Wednesdays and lab on Mondays. However, there may be times when scheduling a rehearsal outside of class or Lab is necessary. Students are expected to be available for a brush-up rehearsal at least one hour before each performance.

Students are also expected to be in class, rehearsals and for performances on time. **Students who are late to rehearsals or performances will have points deducted from their grade.** If you know you will be late because of a specific reason, please notify Lynn or your group in advance.

**Performance participation** includes:

- Showing up one hour early to the performance for run-through rehearsal
- playing your role (i.e. character, facilitator) to the best of your ability;
- incorporating the materials covered in class (especially red-flags and other information we covered in VAV Fall course) into your performance
- incorporating new material into your scene
- creating “real” characters and scenarios
- incorporating “diversity” issues into the scenarios – especially being sensitive to the audience you are performing for
- being knowledgeable and sensitive about interpersonal violence issues and answering audience questions with accurate information
- knowing appropriate referral sources to respond to audience concerns
- making sure that you DO NOT PROVIDE MISINFORMATION
- taking time to debrief with your fellow classmates after a performance and provide them feedback, support and critiques
- being a positive role model for the work that we are doing –on and off stage
- showing up on time to class and performances prepared and ready to perform (**this includes bringing water and having eaten!**)
- being willing to accept feedback and incorporate changes into performances

## Forum and Journal Posts: (available on Blackboard)

You are responsible for 8 posts. Four of these are directly in response to your performance experience. Four others are responses to topics or questions related to our issues.

- **Forum Posts:** You will respond to a different question, topic or current event related to our issues. Forums are separate topics on the Discussion Board available through BlackBoard. Each Forum will open on a Wednesday and close the following Wednesday. A post is considered something carefully written, reflective, questioning, and **at least 2 paragraphs or 100 words long**. Please **PROOFREAD FOR TYPOS AND GRAMMAR**. You are welcome to respond to other people's comments in addition to sharing your own thoughts. These posts are due **Feb. 9, 16, 23 and March 9<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Journal Posts:** You will complete one performance post for EACH of your performances, except the Final Ensemble performance. Performance Posts are due within one week of your performance, and you will find them listed in the Journal section by name/date of performance. If you need some writing and reflection prompts, you can begin with any of these questions:
  - What did you find most effective about the performance?
  - What did you find most challenging about the performance?
  - What happened in the audience that surprised you and why?
  - What do you think you/we/the performers need to do differently next time to make the performance more successful?
  - Where would you like to see our performances develop further?

**NOTE: Journal and Forum posts will CLOSE on their due date. If you have not complete your post, you will lose 5 points, UNLESS you have approached Lynn BEFORE the closing time to negotiate a different due date/time.**

### **Class/Lab participation** includes:

- Regular Attendance and active participation
- When others are rehearsing scenarios in class, you are responsible for taking on an active support role as:
  - recorder (taking notes about scene to give to actors),
  - character development (paying attention to one or two assigned characters and supporting these actors with lines, ideas, assessing believability),
  - red flag development (watching for the red flags, naming them, and helping actors make them clear through verbal and non-verbal language);
  - facilitator support (working with the facilitator to help think through effective places for sub-ins, pauses, helping to develop questions)

### **Other participation responsibilities:**

- paying full attention at all times (if you feel sleepy – please step out to wash your face or freshen-up and come back – it is very insulting to presenters to have you fall asleep in class);
- keeping your phone and computer OFF unless you have notified Lynn of an emergency call you are expecting
- incorporating materials discussed in class into the scenarios and exercises;
- creating diverse and culturally appropriate scenarios for particular requests;
- critiquing your own performance and that of your fellow classmates while being respectful and sensitive to the topic and to other classmates;
- being supportive of each other and working as a “team”

### **VAV Events**

It is required that you attend/help with four VAV or VAV-related events. This can include tabling and helping with events such as the Vagina Monologues and Take Back the Night. You will be required to write post a sentence or two on BlackBoard or our Blog about what you observed at the event, along with the time you worked or attended the event. Each event will be worth 5 points.

- **Mandatory attendance:** Take Back the Night, Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:00-10pm, West Mall (if you have a conflict, talk to Lynn)
- recommended: seeing a performance you are NOT in
- recommended: seeing a Changing Lives performance
- recommended: seeing The Sexy Sex Kind of Sex, and interactive program on sex and consent created by Ben and Lynn and MFA actors, date TBA
- recommended: seeing The Vagina Monologues!

If you sign up for tabling/helping with a VAV event you are required to attend it or find a substitute who will attend in your place. You might also be required to take materials to the event and bring them back in a timely manner. Failure to do so will also impact your class participation grade.

### **Reflections:**

Written work will be graded for completion, clarity, thoughtfulness and reflection. **Work that is handed in LATE will be penalized. Please arrange for any extensions on journals or other work THROUGH EMAIL directly with Lynn.**

**Mid-semester Self – Reflection:** questions will be provided. **DUE Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> by 2pm.**

**End of Semester Self-Reflection:** questions will be provided. **DUE Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by 2pm.**

100 - 94 = A  
93 - 90 = A-  
89 - 87 = B+  
86 - 84 = B  
83 - 80 = B-  
79 - 77 = C+  
76 - 74 = C  
73 - 70 = C- (for graduate students, class failed, no credit 73 and below)  
69 - 67 = D+  
66 - 64 = D  
63 - 60 = D-  
59 and below = F

### **The University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

### **Professional Conduct in Class**

The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

### **Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

### **Documented Disability Statement**

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

### **Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

### **Safety**

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

### **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

### **Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

### **Use of Blackboard in Class**

In this class we will be using Blackboard—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students an opportunity to dialogue. Students can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk by calling 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please plan accordingly.